

## Salem County Office of Archives

## and Records Management

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TIME LINE IV 1900 to 1999 Salem County, New Jersey

Please refer to original documents for confirmation.

By this date the West Jersey Railroad, a Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad, had 8 passenger trains a day, except Sunday, running between Salem City and Philadelphia. Other County station stops were Woodstown, Fenton, Riddleton, Alloway, and Penton.

The County had at least 7 swing-span bridges in operation over navigable waterways providing clearance for boats.

The Salem Rapid Transit Company, an automotive coach service, operated between Salem City and Bridgeton.

Salem County's miles of riverfront and numerous freshwater lakes are a perfect attraction to nearby urban dwellers in Wilmington, Camden and even Philadelphia. Vacationers and excursionists arrive on the many riverboats that sail to Salem's beaches and picnic groves. Tourists fill the hotels and boarding houses that have sprung up to serve this industry. French's Grove in Penns Grove, Riverview Beach & Amusement Park in Pennsville, and Oakwood Beach in Elsinboro was among the most popular and better known.

- The U.S. Government requested a survey for a road to connect Fort Mott and Harrisonville. The road was completed 2/12/1902.
- A harness racing track was built in Salem City on land between Johnson St., Grant St., and South (now East) Broadway. Races were held on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 1902 and 1914 when the track stopped operation.
- 1903 First voting machine used in Salem for the fall election.
- 1905 The Salem County Fair moved to the auction grounds of the Harris Family on North Main Street in Woodstown. Harris bought and moved almost all of the fairgrounds buildings from the previous site.

The Freeholder Board approves the replacement of two bridges at Oldmans Creek and Alloways Creek. The latter is a truss type center-bearing swing span for man powered operation.

1907 The DuPont Company at Carney's Point acquires an additional 1,500 acres.

William Richman, because of the popularity of his ice cream, builds his first ice cream manufacturing plant in Sharptown and begins to produce 1,000 quarts a day. He is soon producing 2,000 quarts daily.

- May 13<sup>th</sup> bid for renovating the Courthouse is approved and the Freeholders hold their first meeting after completion December 9, 1908.
- For the first time the Freeholders hold their annual meeting in January and the first time the minutes are typed.

Elmer Borough Hall cost of \$5,000.00 and is dedicated on Main Street.

The Farmer's Exchange is organized in Woodstown to assist the farmers in sales and in buying supplies. The Exchange was most active and profitable in Salem and Cumberland Counties.

- Woodrow Wilson, President of Princeton, speaks in Woodstown in his run for Governor of New Jersey. Wilson later wins as Governor.
- Incumbent President William Howard Taft campaigns in Woodstown on a whistle-stop tour of the State. Taft loses to Woodrow Wilson.

A new law requires that at every term of the Court the American flag must be flown over the court house. The Freeholders instruct that a smaller county flag be flown as well.

A monument to the Confederate dead is raised in the National Cemetery at Finn's Point.

1913 Upper Pittsgrove Township is separated from Pittsgrove Township.

The Pole Tavern cannon dispute with Bridgeton is finally resolved and after 24 years the cannon is returned in an impressive ceremony on May 17.

The Electric Co. of N.J. and the Delaware & Atlantic Telephone & Telegraph Co. request consent from the Freeholders to erect poles and wires along every county road in Salem.

After a blizzard shuts down the County, the Freeholders issue a warrant; "And whereas, Mr. Groundhog is commonly considered to be responsible for this unfortunate condition, And whereas, the Deputy Sheriff is well acquainted with the home and habits of Mr. Groundhog, Therefore, Be it resolved that the said Deputy Sheriff be authorized and instructed to apprehend the said Mr. Groundhog forthwith, and convey him to the jail, and commit him thereto." The Freeholders appoint Howard B. Keasbey as the first Co. Engineer. In 1919 he is elected to this position.

Operating since the Civil War, the Salem Bridge and Turnpike Company ends.

December 28<sup>th</sup> the American Oil Cloth Co. is reborn as the Salem Linoleum Co. with the Campbell family as major stockholders. The Company will grow to become one of Salem County's most successful and prestigious manufacturers, Mannington Mills.

The County establishes a moveable road camp for prisoners working on county road gangs.

The Electric Co. of New Jersey merges with seven other local power systems providing power to Salem County.

On March 8<sup>th</sup> a telephone is installed in the Surrogates Office.

On August 15<sup>th</sup> a trolley line begins to operate between Salem City and the wharf in Pennsgrove. It was discontinued in 1932.

Ellen Harris Smith, MD. of Salem is the first woman member of the Salem County Medical Society. Her husband Winfield Scott Smith is also an MD. Ellen was born in LAC Township in 1866.

April 6<sup>th</sup> the U.S. declares war on Germany and the Freeholders send a resolution of support to The White House.

Fort Mott operates a Battery for defense throughout the War.

The Du Pont Company goes into wartime production on a massive scale. The plant in Carneys Point (then Upper Penns Neck Township) becomes the l largest chemical factory in the in the world and at peak employs 25,000 men and women. It produces 2,500 different products and operates twenty-four hours daily changing the almost exclusively agrarian history of Salem County.

Frank Golder, born in Salem's Alliance Colony, distinguishes himself by becoming advisor to two Presidents, Wilson and Hoover.

Trolley service is inaugurated in Pennsville.

The historic 170 year old Pole Tavern is consumed by fire.

Freeholder Board's first time appointment of bridge construction committee.

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The Salem County Memorial Hospital is established by the popular subscription of 4,000 concerned citizens. Ford's Hotel on Market St. is purchased and refitted as the first hospital.

A motion is made to honor Salem Veterans and some time later a monument to all Veterans of World War II is placed on the courthouse lawn.

- The railroad, both passenger & freight service, prospered throughout the first two decades of the century; however, after the war automobiles and trucks begin to affect the profitability of the rails.
- Worst blizzard since 1909 with heavy snows and high winds that kept the County shut down for days. Farmers had to rescue travelers and mail halted.

President Warren G. Harding visited Woodstown to dedicate the Harding Highway (Routes 40 and 48) between Woodstown and Penn's Grove. A bridge was constructed at Memorial Lake, Woodstown.

The Board adopted a resolution to purchase the Johnson House and property from Mrs. Henry Johnson to use as county offices and park. This addition gave the County most of the land on Market St. from Broadway to the Presbyterian Church.

- The old covered bridge at the north end of Market Street is replaced and opened for traffic. Construction had begun in 1922.
- Russell S. Morton, having been a U.S. Navy radio instructor in the War, returned to Salem City and supplied radio parts to amateurs. In 1924-1925 He operated his own radio station WDBQ-Salem with a power of 10 watts which broadcast for a radius of 350 miles.

George Leroy Hill of Salem City represents the U.S. in the Olympic Games in Paris, France where he places fourth in the men's track in the 200 meter race. Race memorialized in the movie "Chariots of Fire".

- After a disastrous fire the John B. Campbell Manufacturing Co. (the former Salem Manufacturing Co.) moves to a new 168 acre site in Mannington. The new plant opens and employs 65 men.
- October is the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Salem Colony by Major John Fenwick and his group of settlers. The first English-speaking settlement in the Delaware Valley was Salem.

The incorporation of Woodstown is confirmed.

Swing span bridge replaces earlier structure over Alloways Creek in Quinton.

The Poultry Show in New York's Madison Square Garden awards First Prize to Salem Poultry Farms Corey Ott for his blue ribbon Silver Lace Wyandotte rooster.

1927 With its final local merger the Electric Co. of N.J. becomes the Atlantic City Electric Co.

The Campbell's reorganize their company and incorporate it under the name "Mannington Mills". The family explains that since the Indians were the first rug makers in America they will name their firm after the great Lenape chief Maneto.

Five months to the day after his momentous flight to Paris, Charles Lindburg, flying in the "Spirit of St. Louis", drops a message to Salem as he passes over the Salem Oak. He was on a tour of the U.S. and was en route from Atlantic City to Wilmington.

The Salem-Penns Neck Bridge is completed and is dedicated on 12/3. this moveable Strauss Bascule Bridge has the honor of being the last of its type in the U.S. when it was replaced in 2005.

The Harris family, owners of the Harris Sales Co. selling livestock in Woodstown, founds the Cowtown Rodeo. It remains the only weekly rodeo east of the Mississippi.

Agriculture is still a major industry in Salem Co. and in N.J. the County is second in tomato production. Other crops of note are potatoes, wheat, corn, asparagus, pumpkins, hay, peaches, pears, and apples.

The novelist, George Agnew Chamberlain, returns to his roots in "Down Jersey" restoring an old house in Quinton Township. He continued to write and his novel "Phantom Filly" was released twice in movie versions, "Home In Indiana" and later "April Love" starring Pat Boone. More important to Salem were his books set in southern New Jersey, "Scuddo Hoo, Scudda Hay" also made into a movie by that name, was probably the favorite. He was the author of 36 novels total.

Jack "Johnny" Gross, born in Salem in 1905, is ranked #9 by "The Ring" Magazine as the heavyweight boxer in the world.

The Atlantic City Electric Co. and the Philadelphia Electric Co. open a major generating plant on 365 acres in Deepwater.

On October 24<sup>th</sup> the paymaster of the Salem Glassworks is killed by men who steal the Company payroll. The community is horrified and as a re-

sult the major companies in Salem open payroll accounts with the local banks and begin to pay by check.

1931 Pointers-Auburn Road Bridge opens to traffic in Pilesgrove Township.

At year's beginning the County replaces its horse teams with trucks.

On April 29<sup>th</sup> The Hancock House in Hancock's Bridge is officially opened to the public as a historic site with great ceremony and festivities.

Amelia Earhart frequently flies in to visit her friend the diplomat and author George Agnew Chamberlain at his Quinton Township home on Alloways Creek at Lloyd's Landing.

Leon Allen "Goose" Goslin of Salem sees his career explode during the 1930s. He plays for the Washington Senators (1921-30), the St. Louis Browns (1930-32), the Detroit Tigers (1934-37), and the Senators again (1933 & 1938). He played in five World Series and had a .316 lifetime batting average. He was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1968.

1932-1939 Salem County is hit hard by the "Great Depression" and County cuts salaries. Freeholders take voluntary pay cut which remains in effect until 1939.

U.S. Civil Works Administration is created. Projects are approved to widen causeways between Salem & Pennsville and install Tillbury Road sluice pipes. Roads, bridges and culverts are greatly improved in Salem County through this program and Works Progress Administration founded in 1936.

County Engineers reported to the Freeholders that the County owned 94 reinforced concrete bridges all installed within the last 20 years. Between 1936 & 1938 bridges also built over Oldmans Creek and the Salem River, Hawk's Bridge at Carneys Point (known then as Upper Penns Neck).

U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) created in 1933 builds Parvin State Park and Thundergust Lake.

- John M. Chowning, born in Salem City in 1934, is an American composer, musician, inventor, and professor best known for his work at Stanford University and his invention of FM synthesis while there. This technology led to production of the most successful synthesizer (Yamaha DX7) in the history of electronic musical instruments.
- The local paper reports that the celebrity/showman George Wazo, aka "Wazo the Wizard", had a son in Salem with a pet goat that followed him to school. Three Wazo's are buried at St. John's Episcopal Church in Salem City.

The 1935 Social Security Act is first provided in Salem Co. on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Anchor Hocking Glass Corp. is formed with the merger of the Anchor Cap and Closure Corp. (their plant in Salem had derived from the Salem Glassworks) and the Hocking Glass Company of Ohio.

State Senator D. Stewart Craven, N.J. Commission member celebrating the settlement of the Swedes in Delaware Valley, requests permission to build miniature log fort in Johnson Park as part of the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary activities. Allowed as long as it wasn't considered permanent.

3 Freeholders are appointed to serve on a committee to plan "Salem County Day" for the New Jersey State Exhibition at the 1939 "World's Fair" in New York City.

County, State and Federal funds used to connect the National Road System between the Pennsville-New Castle Ferry and New Jersey highways to New York City. The Mannington Causeway is raised and a new bridge is constructed and completed in 1939.

- Because the cost of repairing and rebuilding the tidal banks is beyond scope of the municipalities, meadow companies, and private landholders the County Clerk is instructed to inquire as to the availability of Federal Funds.
- On September 1<sup>st</sup> Salem County experienced a "100 Year Storm" and within 5 hours had 10 inches of rain. The fast rising water burst dams, washed out roads & bridges, and inundated public and private property. 9 large county bridges were destroyed and hundreds of smaller culverts and bridges were washed out closing 15 major county roads.

Harris family moved stock auction business and rodeo to Cowtown on Route 40 west of Sharptown in November. The Salem County Fair also moves.

U.S. declares war and like the rest of the country, Salem County goes into wartime emergency mode for the duration. Rationing goes into effect. No project costing more than \$1,000 can be undertaken without a preference rating from the federal government.

The Penns Grove-Wilmington ferry is shut down until after the war.

No road or bridge work can be instituted and the Metals Reserve Co. requests unused streetcar rails.

Coal reserves deplete and county offices struggle to get fuel until war's end.

Salem's farms have serious problems finding field hands even though the produce is needed for the military. The Seabrook Farms request and receive assignments of Japanese-Americans that have been interred in prison camps by the government and other farms are able to request Prisoners of War for farm and factory work.

Once again, the Du Pont facilities that now stretched from Deepwater to Carney's Point (then Upper Penns Neck) became a vital war time supplier to the military. The plants operated round-the- clock with the expected upsurge of staff that swelled the communities nearby.

Willard Green of Penn's Grove served in the U.S. Navy as a wartime Chief Photographer taking action photos of planes and ships. On his return he went back to work at Du Pont Chambers Works becoming editor of the Co. News.

In January the Federal Government designated a part of the Pennsville-Auburn Road to be known as Federal Route 40, extending from N.J. Highway 44 (now U.S. 130) to N.J. State 48. Because of the large volume of north – south national traffic the cost of maintaining this highway would place a financial burden on the County taxpayers. The Freeholders responded by requesting that the State make this road part of the State Highway system.

Freeholder Board gave approval to the Delaware and Atlantic Telegraph and Telephone Co. to erect poles on 8 miles of Hook Road.

- The County experienced the highest tides, September 17 & 18, it had seen in ten years. Mannington causeway had 15" of water above the road. Floods spread out over the Penn's Neck causeway, Fort Mott road, Beasley Neck road and Hancock's Bridge. Innumerable farms and villages were under water. Given the wartime lack of manpower and funding this posed serious problems for the County.
- The local papers reported that the proposed Delaware-New Jersey Bridge over the Delaware River had won-out over any opposition.

A problem with foxes killing domestic fowl and game birds was brought to the attention of the Freeholders who increased the bounty for taking or killing them.

A dispute between Salem and Gloucester Counties developed over the boundary line that separated them. Salem County Engineers proved that the old line was correct and markers were set in 1948. It would not be until 1950 that the Freeholders were presented with final maps of the boundary.

First Baptist Church tower catches fire with damage to the tower, town clock and bell. It is rebuilt, this time with chimes, and is dedicated Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> to those who served from this community in World War II.

Legend has it that Russell S. Morton, of local radio fame, and his shop build Salem County's first TV. It is believed that Salem's Victory Café had the first commercial TV set in the county.

- For some time the Freeholders had received complaints that a number of farmers were damaging the roads by turning their tractors and harrows on them and the shoulders. In spite of the diligence of the constables this continued to be a problem into the 1950s.
- In September the Public Buildings Committee reported that as part of the reconditioning of the old courthouse and the historic court room, the antique chairs and tables have been restored and new carpeting has been installed.

A monument with all the names of locals who died in service during both World Wars is installed on the courthouse lawn 7/20.

By 1950 Mannington Mills began to rapidly expand and now had 28 buildings on 15 acres with a staff of 325.

The County expanded with a seasonal army of new immigrant farm workers which now included the first Puerto Ricans and later would include Mexicans. These workers would stay and become a part of the versatile county community.

Integration would finally be enforced in the County even though it should have taken place before the war.

Bill Haley famous for his Rock and Roll music during the 1950s & 60s began his career in the late 1940s playing in Salem City on Saturdays at the St. John's Old Parish House. He met his wife Dorothy Crowe at these dances and they lived in Salem City for a few years. In the 1950s, he hit the big time with his new band Bill Haley and the Comets.

Christmas of 1950 saw the last run of the steam train from Salem City. Passenger service was eliminated years before and the station in Salem had been torn down in 1944. Freight service in the county survived on a limited basis thanks to the Port and Salem industry.

The Memorial Hospital of Salem County moves into a new building in Mannington just north of Salem City.

The first of two suspension bridges is completed and opened on 8/14 connecting New Jersey, at Deepwater, and Delaware, between New Castle and Wilmington. Ferry service, from Pennsville to New Castle ends with the last ferry before midnight 8/15. This bridge will carry the bulk of the north/south motor traffic on the east coast. The second span will be completed in 1968 and at that time was the longest twin suspension bridge in the world.

The county Almshouse has improvements and alterations completed and inspected by the Freeholders on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The name is changed to the Salem County Home. The county Welfare Board is instructed to investigate and supervise all applications for admission.

- By now, Richmann's Ice Cream is producing 3,200,000 quarts a year and employs 80 staff in season at its plant in Sharptown.
- Oil tankers, the Phoenix and the Pan Massachusetts, collided at night off Elsinboro Point and burned for a day with flames so bright locals said they could read by the light.
- New bridges are completed and opened to traffic at Hancock's Bridge and Oliphant's Mill. The latter is a joint project between Salem and Gloucester counties and opened in 1955.

The State requires the County to appoint a Disaster Control Coordinator and a Deputy subject to approval of the State Civil Defense Director.

On October 15<sup>th</sup> Hurricane Hazel sweeps through the County taking down trees, washing out roads, and damaging public and private property.

The N.J. Turnpike Authority has been building this major north/south highway since 1950 and by November had completed most of the repairs to the county roads at the turnpike overpasses. Once completed it will connect to the Delaware Memorial Bridge and become the most important highway in New Jersey and the northeast corridor.

A Micro-Film Machine is installed in the County Clerk's Office.

Forrest "Spook" Jacobs, born and raised in Penn Grove, joins Philadelphia Athletics and begins 17 year career in baseball.

"Bye Bye Blackbird" Because of severe crop loss due to an overpopulation of blackbirds, grackles, and crows, Salem County sends a resolution to Congress requesting that they withdraw from a treaty with Mexico that protected Red Wing Blackbirds.

A classic "Silk City Diner" replaces the Bilderback house at the corner of Broadway and Oak Street in Salem City.

1956-1958 The need for a new office building and jail was debated once again and, after much ado, the Freeholders approved the construction for this facility. The completed building was turned over to the county in October of 1958.

A County Flag was designed and adopted after a design competition among county schoolchildren on November 1956. A Penns Grove student wins. The official design was adopted on January 15, 1958.

On February 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> an 11" snowstorm, the worst since 1934, shuts down all travel in Salem County. High winds and low degrees for 3 days make it impossible to keep any roads open. It would be Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup> before all roads would be open.

The Tri-County Library Services Center starts a Bookmobile service.

Emergency appropriations are approved by the Board to act as cosponsor for building dikes and tide banks to protect roads and bridges in Lower Alloways Creek Township.

The Freeholders contact the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard concerning damage being done to shorefront property on the Delaware because of the high speeds of military and commercial shipping. This is an ongoing problem.

The historic 170 year old Willow Grove Mill near Elmer is destroyed in a fire.

The Census taken this year qualifies the borough of Woodstown to have its own Freeholder seat.

Telephone service in the county introduces dial service and direct distance dialing on January 17<sup>th</sup>. This created an expansion of business in Salem that led to the need for a building which N.J. Bell built on West Broadway.

Local collegians from Penn's Grove make history in track and field. Don Bragg wins Olympic Gold in the pole vault and creates an impressive record in that sport. His Penn's Grove High friend John Belitz becomes the first collegiate athlete to clear 16' in the pole vault and has an almost equally successful career in athletics.

- Plans are being made to construct Interstate #295 from the Delaware Memorial Bridge to Trenton and the Freeholders request that an interchange be created at the intersection of this new highway and Salem County Road No. 40.
- A letter to the Freeholders from the County Solicitor informs the Board that the County Farm is now an illegal operation and has been since 1951. The Board establishes a special committee to investigate and make a report. Late in the year the Board moves to close the farm and sell what they can of equipment etc.
- The Legislature passes a bill to give a second Freeholder Seat to Lower Penn's Neck Township.

The Board approves a request from the Salem County Technical Institute to change the name to the Salem County Technical College and grants permission for them to award Associate Degrees.

Salem County celebrates the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of New Jersey with a parade and festivities in Salem City 9/12.

By now, Gayner Glass which had remained in the family until 1955, had become a unit of the Star Glass Company with its factory on Front St. and employing a staff of 274.

NBC airs "Election Year in Average Town" on television with the City of Salem its nationwide selection for average town. The airing results in a strong response from City residents.

- Lower Penns Neck Township became Pennsville Township.
- 1966- 1967 The N.J. Legislature reduces the Chosen Freeholder Board to seven to be elected county-wide and not by Township. The last meeting of the large Board is December 29, 1966. The new Board held its first meeting on January 1, 1967...

A War Veterans Cemetery is created at the site of the former Salem County Farm and the following year the Viet Nam vets are included.

Beginning in 1958 the Board of Chosen Freeholders discussed and debated the need for larger Court House facilities. The Old Courthouse could not be enlarged without outrage in the community because of its historic significance. A new building would require the acquisition of property on Market Street and after considering the land on both sides of the street the Board decided to stick to the east

side. The library and firehouse were torn down. The Johnson building was moved and land on Grant St. was acquired for parking. Final bond approval took place on 8/16/1967 and groundbreaking on 7/1/1967. The Courthouse was dedicated one year and three months later at a dedication and cornerstone ceremony 10/20/1968. The final payment to the architects Edwards and Green was made 2/18/1970 and final bond burned 9/19/1979.

- A new corporation Wire Pro Inc. begins in Salem County. It serves markets in transportation, medical electronics, shipboard, underwater, and aerospace telecommunications and computer applications.
- The Board adopts a resolution establishing the Salem Community College and petitions the Board of Education for the authority to do so with a license to award degrees for Associate in Arts and also Associate in Applied Science. A nine member board is appointed to be the College Board of Trustees.

Salem High alumnus Lydell Mitchell after going on to Penn State, where he achieved All-American, is signed to a 6 year contract with the Baltimore Colts. His Pro-Ball career would include another two years with the San Diego Chargers and a last year with the Los Angeles Rams. Mitchell was the first RB in Colt History to rush 1,000 yards.

The Salem County Cultural & Heritage Commission is created by the Freeholders, with nine members, to prepare the county to partipate in the U.S. Bicentennial.

The U.S. Government conveys 23 acres in Oldmans Township to Salem County for parks, recreation and general use for \$1. The land became government surplus after the closing of PADS. (Philadelphia Air Defense Site).

A need for a nursing home had been a point of discussion and in May the Freeholders passed a bond ordinance and purchased the private Salem County Nursing Home to be the new County facility.

There had also been an interest in establishing a Vocational Technical High School and, after a voters referendum passed, the Freeholders approved the deeding of 38.33 acres of the County Farm to the Salem County Board for Vocational education on March 7<sup>th</sup>. The Board also funded acquisition of the former ACME Store building in Mannington for a Vo Tech Employment Orientation Center.

Salem County celebrates the 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Colony by John Fenwick and his group of settlers. To commemorate this momentous event the Board agrees to set aside 13 acres of woods

as "Fenwick's Grove". The land, now part of the Agriculture Departments property on the former County Farm, also has the distinction of being part of John Fenwick's original landholdings.

William J. Hughes, born in Salem in 1932, is elected as Democrat to U.S. Congress and serves through 1995. He is then named Ambassador to Panama from 1995 to 1998.

In March the Board of Chosen Freeholders passes a resolution granting permission to the Public Services Electric and Gas Company to locate a facility on Artificial Island, a manmade peninsula 3 miles long, just southwest of Hancock's Bridge in Lower Alloways Creek Township. The Company built a nuclear power facility here with the Salem I plant opening in 1976, Salem II plant in 1981, and the Hope Creek plant starting operation in 1986. Hope Creek Plant is cooled by a tower and the two original plants are cooled by river water. The plants have employed between 2,000 and 2,800 staff at varying times.

A movement of citizens, concerned by the demolition of sections of Salem City, organizes the "Market Street Improvement Association" to rally support in saving the City's historic buildings, especially those in imminent danger on Market Street. The County Planning Board collaborates with the City of Salem to engage preservation architect John Dickey to draw up restoration plans for some of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century houses to show how the neighborhood can be revived. This collaboration demonstrates the economic and social benefits of living in a historic city.

The County's communities celebrate with the rest of the country in the United States Bicentennial. A magnificent parade of "Tall Ships" sails past Salem County's shores on their way to and from the festivities in Philadelphia. Parades and fireworks were some of the local celebrations.

Upper Penns Neck Township is changed to Carneys Point Township.

The Board passes a resolution for a bond ordinance to make improvements at the County Nursing Home, to construct a new library, food service and admin. building at the Community College and build a new burn facility for the training of the county firemen. The nursing home and college are acted on immediately; however, it will be twenty years before the fire training center is dedicated.

The first contract is let for Salem County Home Delivered Meals Program. Known as Meals- on- Wheels, this becomes one of the County's most appreciated programs. A new contract was forth coming in 1981.

Mannington Mills continues to grow and build new facilities. By now

they have a staff of 800, a new office building, cafeteria, and warehouse with a total of 56 buildings on 328 acres. By 1981 a new plant has been designed and constructed.

The Freeholders approve a pilot project to fund a county operated and funded Bookmobile. In 1981, County funds a library extension service and bookmobile and in 1988 a Bookmobile is purchased for county use only.

Freeholders approve resolution urging U.S. Navy return Battleship U.S.S. New Jersey to its home State. Ship now permanently birthed at Camden City where it is now open to the public.

Appel Farm Arts & Music Center is incorporated as a regional center serving audiences, artists and students. The Appels founded this farm originally as a summer camp for children but it has grown to serve a much greater constituency with participants both regional and national.

- Wire Pro, Inc. moves to Salem City. It is a leader in the interconnect industry as a privately owned connector, cable assembly, and wire harness manufacturing facility. Company HQ and one plant are now in Salem.
- The Agriculture Business in Salem County introduces new and very successful "crops" by the addition of huge farms for plant nurseries and sod. These are lucrative businesses, which provide new markets and opportunities for the County's farmers who sell wholesale to architects, building contractors, urban nurseries, and golf courses.
- The Freeholders pass a resolution supporting a Port Authority in Salem City.
- The last glassworks in Salem City, after company reorganization, is now named the Anchor Glass Containers Corporation.
- 1984-1988 Mannington Mills thrives and expands building a fitness center for its employees and retirees in 1983, reorganizes in 1985 with 3 Divisions, adds a 4<sup>th</sup> Division in 1986 and builds a Research and Development Center in 1988.
- 1985 Conrail intends closing local rail line, Freeholders deem it vital to local business and buys line from Swedesboro to Salem City. They contract the West Jersey Short Line to operate freight service for the County.
- Jay Williams and David Harvey of Daretown, using mostly their own money and donating their time, restore the famous Pole Tavern cannon in time for it to be used in the Fourth of July Parade in Woodstown.
- An Equine Survey published by the State Department of Agriculture

lists Salem County being 8<sup>th</sup> among State's 21 Counties in acres devoted to raising horses. Most of Salem's horse farms are for raising and training thoroughbreds for race tracks in the Northeast and the Mid-Atlantic.

The Newell Corporation acquires the Anchor Hocking Corporation in July and with this renewed influx of capital the facility is upgraded.

Charles Pederson, a Salem City resident and career DuPont scientist, is named a Nobel Laureate for his research on Crown Ethers. He is Du Pont's only scientist to win a Nobel Prize. Freeholders honor him for his contribution to science.

Salem City dedicates Martin Luther King Park on Market Street between the Garwood House (now 2009: Salem Café) and Martin Luther King Drive.

Freeholder Board passes a resolution to purchase the Fenwick Building (old Hospital/Ford's Hotel on Market Street for conversion to county offices.

In 1982 a general election approved the statewide takeover of the County Courts. This included courtrooms, furniture and equipment but the County had to finance the court for five more years. Finally, in 1988 the State of N.J. took over the payment of salaries for the courts. County government still provides buildings and grounds with caretaker funds being provided by the State.

In order to promote the revitalization of Salem City "Stand-Up For Salem" was founded by the combined efforts of PSE&G, Du Pont, Mannington Mills, and Atlantic City Electric. This organization will become essential to the future redevelopment of the city.

1989 G & E Fabricators is founded in Elsinboro manufacturing roof trusses and structural support for flooring.

The County, with the permission of the Du Pont Company who had given the land, acquires the YMCA's Camp Crockett in Pilesgrove. The county will continue to use it as a park and recreation facility and it is dedicated on 8/29/1992.

The N.J. State Agricultural Development Committee institutes a new statewide program for Farmland Preservation. This program will place permanent restrictions of agricultural land by purchasing development rights to the property. 57 farms are approved, statewide, in the initial program and 7 farms, 1,762 acres, in Salem are included. In 1991 the County agrees to fund 20% of the purchase price per farm and by 1996 6 more farms are included. By 2009, Salem County leads the State in Farmland Preservation.

Not so readily received was the proposed plan to build a County Waste Management/Landfill in Alloway Township. A Solid Waste facility was required by the State but the battle which began in 1978 would continue for a decade. Hearings, court orders, lawsuits, etc. would dog every attempt to bring this landfill into fruition. Eventually, the site in Alloway was approved and the landfill constructed.

- The State selected Salem County as a site for a Regional Special Needs School to be located at the Lakeview Complex. The County on August 17<sup>th</sup> transferred the land to Vo-Tech to be operated at State expense.
- Site selection for a new County Jail Complex began in 1987 and originally proposed a multi-story building in Salem City behind the new courthouse. Based in part on a presentation by local preservationists, the NJ State Historic Sites Council denied the Salem City site. The present site in Mannington was later approved by the Freeholders, which opened in 1994.

In March the Freeholders conveyed property on Grant Street to Preservation Salem, at their request, so that the old Telegraph buildcould be moved there and be restored to its early nineteenth century appearance. Restoration is still underway and use is yet to be decided.

- 1993-1996 A county Agricultural Building was proposed for land in the Lakeview Complex. Contracts were awarded on 4/19/1995 and the building was completed and dedicated in October 1996. A portion of the building is leased by the federal USDA.
- On November 2<sup>nd</sup> the Freeholders passed a resolution supporting the N.J. Coastal Heritage Trail, which in Salem County includes the Delsea Region Welcome Center at Fort Mott, Finn's Point National Cemetery, Finn's Point Rear Range Light, Hancock House State Historic Site, and Stow Creek Viewing Area. Trail part of U.S. National Park Service.
- The Salem County Watershed Task Force founded to monitor health and well being of the county watersheds. Activities include water monitoring, environmental education and advocacy.
- 1996 Chris Widger of Pennsville enters the Major Leagues with the Montreal Expos. He plays for the Yankees in 2002, the Cardinals in 2003 and after time out with a shoulder injury he joined the Chicago White Sox and assisted them in winning the World Series in 2005.
- 1997 Freeholders opened discussion in 1993 to renovate the former jail as a County Administration Building. Board awarded a contract in 1996 and the work was completed and dedicated on 10/15/1997.

The Daretown School, having been purchased from the Upper Pittsgrove School District 8/21/1996, was transferred by the Freeholders to the Special Services School District for their use on 11/19/1997.

The Pittsgrove Township Zoning Board, on 10/15/1997, gave approval for the construction of a County Communications Tower in their Township. This tower would be part of the new 500-megahertz communications system for the County.

- This year was the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of County Incorporation Day under the laws of the State of New Jersey. The County celebrated on 10/3/1998 with a Fair that included re-enactments, games, exhibits, artisans, and festivities.
- The Battleship New Jersey sails up the Delaware River past Salem County for the last time in its long and distinguished career. The ship had its final decommissioning in February 1991. After preparation as a museum, it docked at its final destination on the Camden N.J. waterfront where it now proudly serves as a tribute to the sailors who served on her and as an educational museum open to the public.